

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES			
DSEX	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	JPY
0.51%	0.58%	\$1,264.00	\$57.81	0.18%	0.10%	0.28%	0.27%	82.20	96.16	108.99	0.71
6,196.48	11,591.18	(per ounce)	(per barrel)	33,777.38	22,891.72	3,394.87	3,287.61	BUY TK	82.20	99.76	112.59
								SELL TK	83.20	99.76	112.59

# Star BUSINESS

DHAKA THURSDAY DECEMBER 21, 2017, POUH 7, 1424 BS

রোগ নির্ণয়ে সর্বাধুনিক যন্ত্রপাতি ও সর্বোচ্চ মান।  
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## 13 closed textile mills to reopen

### Govt to spend Tk 15,200cr under PPP

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

The government is going to renovate and reopen 13 textile mills under public-private partnership arrangement at a cost of Tk 15,200 crore.

The cabinet committee on economic affairs approved a proposal from the jute and textiles ministry to this effect yesterday.

At present, the factories, owned by Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC), have been lying closed and the machineries have gone out of order.

About 380 acres of land with market value of Tk 1,592 crore have remained unused in the mills, according to the proposal. The corporation will consider the land as capital.

The private party will implement, maintain and market products of the project.

The shares of the project will be distributed as per the partnership and the number of shares going to each party will be determined through negotiation. The tenure of the partnership may be 30 years.

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## Internet users soar

### One crore connections added in seven months

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

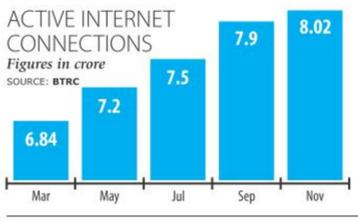
The ICT industry has added one crore active internet connections in the last seven months and crossed the eight crore-mark on the back of the growing use of digital platforms in the country.

The country has 8.02 crore active internet connections as of November, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) said in a report yesterday.

Of them, 7.47 crore use internet on mobile phones, 53.42 lakh through broadband lines and 88,000 through Wimax, according to the report.

As of November, there are 14.31 crore active SIMs in the country.

"The growth is very natural and it will be much higher in the near future," said TIM Nurul Kabir, secretary general of the Association of Mobile Telecom Operators of Bangladesh.



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## Manual VAT numbers to remain valid for two more months

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

Firms may be able to use their manually issued 11-digit VAT registration numbers for a further two months as the revenue authority is yet to complete the revision of the VAT Act 1991 to make it compatible with the online system.

The 11-digit numbers were supposed to become invalid on January 2018, so firms were asked to register for 9-digit e-BINs by December 31 this year to continue their activities such as export, import, participation in tenders, application for loans and so on.

"As the amendment of rules is yet to be done, we are considering extending the validity of the manually issued BINs and the deadline for re-registration for e-BINs," said a senior official of the National Board of Revenue.

The NBR introduced online registration for VAT with 9-digit BINs in March as part of its effort to implement the VAT and Supplementary Duty Act 2012 under an automated VAT environment.

Later, in a shock move, the government deferred the implementation of the new VAT law by two years, derailing the NBR's plans. Later, the revenue authority decided to go for automation of the VAT system under the existing law.

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## Nihad Kabir reelected MCCI president

**STAR BUSINESS DESK**

Nihad Kabir, a senior partner of Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed & Associates, has been reelected as president of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka for 2018.

The new committee of the country's oldest chamber reelected her unanimously at the committee's first meeting on December 12.

The appointment was confirmed at the 113th annual general meeting of the MCCI yesterday.

Golam Mainuddin, chairman of British American Tobacco Bangladesh, was reelected as vice-president, the chamber said in a statement.

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## Imported apple, ginger find no takers at auction

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg**

Chittagong Customs House has set another date to auction off 93 tonnes of unclaimed apple and ginger after none of the 40 participants made any bids in yesterday's auction for the produce imported in early October.

This was the second auction organised by the customs house for the produce imported by Noakhali-based Azizia Trading, Chittagong-based Yusuf Corporation and MKB Corporation and Dhaka-based Karim & Brothers.

The firms did not take delivery of the consignments despite repeated notifications from the customs authority, said Mia Md Nazmul Hoque, assistant commissioner (auction) of Chittagong Customs House.

On December 18, the customs authority called the first auction for a 24-tonne container of apple and three 23-tonne containers of ginger. Only 7 of the 50 bidders offered prices and four of them came up with highest prices.

The highest price offered for a kg of apple was Tk 13.33, much lower from the reserve value of Tk 85, Hoque said.

Similarly, a kilogram of ginger fetched the highest price of Tk 9.28 -- way lower than the reserve price of Tk 79.28.

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